

Remarks

Claims 12 and 13 are presently canceled.

Claims 1, 17 and 19 are presently amended.

Claims 1, 3-11, 14-20, 23 and 24 are now under consideration and are the only claims of this application.

Claims 10, 11, 14 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable.

The present claims are amended to delete subject matter relating to where the at least one further compounds are diphosphonites.

Claim 17 is amended to delete the term "type".

Applicants are following the voluntary revised amendment practice guidelines, published in the Official Gazette February 25, 2003. The texts of all claims under examination are presently submitted. Marked-up versions of the currently amended claims are submitted. Additions are shown with underlining and deletions are shown with strikethrough.

No new matter is added with any of the present amendments.

Rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for reasons of record.

Claim 17 is amended as discussed above.

Applicants submit that the present amendments address and obviate the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection.

Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-9, 12, 13, 16-20, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over WO 95/35343 (WO '343) in view of Gaku '769.

WO '343 is cited as disclosing the blending of diphosponites, optionally with difunctional epoxides, with polycondensates to increase the molecular weight of polycondensates.

Gaku '769 is cited as disclosing the use of dicyanates to modify polymer properties.

Applicants submit that in light of the present amendments discussed above, that the 35 USC 103(a) rejections are addressed and are overcome.

In view of all of the present amendments and discussion, Applicants submit that the 35 USC 112, second paragraph and 35 USC 103(a) rejections are each addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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